

SEVERE STORMS FOR DECEMBER 1949

[The table hereunder contains such data as have been received concerning severe local storms that occurred during the month]

Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks
Babb, Mont.....	1					Wind.....	Telephone poles and small buildings blown down.
Great Falls, Mont.....	1-2					do.....	High winds prevailed on 1st and 2d, with gusts over 60 m. p. h. near midday, when fastest mile recorded as 63 m. p. h. and 61 m. p. h. respectively. No major damage reported.
Lake Michigan.....	3	All day.....				Southerly gales.....	2 ships loaded with grain and 1 loaded with paper southbound on Lake Michigan for Milwaukee sustained some damage by heavy seas to both cargoes and ships.
Marinette (near), Wis.....	6			1		Blowing snow.....	Man struck and killed by auto. Cause of accident attributed to blowing snow.
Santa Barbara, Calif.....	7-8	8 p. m., 7th-8th	150		\$150,000	Winds.....	Strong southeasterly winds swept Santa Barbara Harbor during night, reaching a speed of 38 m. p. h. By midnight beach was littered with broken masts, propellers, radios, life preservers, and boats. 20 boats beached, 7 sunk, and many others were riding anchor against one another. Storm was worst to hit harbor in 6 years.
Madera, Fresno, Kings, and Tulare Counties, Calif.	9-10	8 p. m., 9th-5:29 p. m., 10th.		2	20,000	do.....	Near record winds caused severe damage in San Joaquin Valley. A maximum speed for 5 minutes at Fresno of 40 m. p. h. was a new record for December and 1 m. p. h. less than all time record of 41 m. p. h. established on Jan. 27, 1916. On Yocum Ranch near Hanford a large eucalyptus tree blew down across a tent and a parked automobile, killing man asleep in tent and another sleeping in parked automobile. Christmas decorations in business districts ruined. Strong winds raised soils from plowed areas around the Fresno Air Terminal, reducing visibility at times to ¼ mile. Winds also downed limbs and trees, damaged buildings, shattered neon tubing of hundreds of signs, broke windows, and ripped roofing off garages and other small buildings.
San Diego County, Calif.....	10	2:30 a. m.-9 p. m.			20,000	do.....	Winds, reaching speed of 32 m. p. h. or more, and accompanied by rain and hail, ripped through San Diego. Trees downed, fishing boats battered and at least 1 sunk, power and telephone service disrupted, windows broken, signs blown down, and streets littered with tree branches, and debris. Some avocados and oranges blown from trees, and others scarred.
Tucson, Ariz.....	10	10 a. m.-10:30 p. m.	160		1,500	do.....	Struck metropolitan area with gusts to 60 m. p. h. Major damage caused by falling trees and flying limbs. Several automobiles damaged by falling trees. Plate glass windows smashed. Serious power and telephone disruption. Elderly man died from exposure in an unheated house during night following storm.
Winn Parish, La.....	10	6:15 p. m.....	10	0	15,000	Tornado.....	Moving northeastward tornado passed near Calvin community; 1 person seriously injured. 1 home destroyed and 4 others seriously damaged; several outbuildings damaged.
Round Mountain, Ark.....	11	2:30 a. m.....		1		Electrical.....	Lightning struck a power pole, causing ground wire to sag onto "live" wire; then current ran on neutral wire into home and into electric range. Owner ran into yard, and was electrocuted when he came into contact with sagging wire. House destroyed by fire.
Muskogee (4 miles west of), Okla.	11	10 a. m.....	16	0	250	Tornado.....	A "baby twister," moving northward, dipped down for a moment. Path on ground less than 50 feet long. 1 auto shed lifted above telephone wires and set down about 50 feet farther north.
Santa Monica, Calif.....	11	Early morn-ing.			500	Winds.....	1 tugboat rammed on piling and sunk. Small boats slightly damaged by action of wind and waves.
Hannibal, Mo.....	11	12:25 p. m.....	200		200,000	Tornado.....	Path about 6 miles long. Damage spread over 20-block area. Houses and buildings damaged, trees uprooted, and automobiles smashed. 3 persons hospitalized and many injured by flying glass and debris. Slight damage to power and telephone lines reported. Storm crossed Mississippi River into Illinois.
Clinton, Ark.....	11	1:15 p. m.....	220	0	75,000	Tornado.....	Principal damage to east edge of Clinton, and east of town. Damage to houses and barns and to hay and corn crops. Some loss of poultry and livestock. Path of storm northeastward.
Providence, Ark.....	11	2:46 p. m.....	660	1	50,000	do.....	7 persons injured. Considerable damage to houses and barns; about 15 buildings destroyed. Path northeastward for 4¼ miles.
Madison County (northern portion), Ill.	11	3 p. m.....	100	0	5,000	do.....	Several farm buildings damaged.
Albany, Mo.....	11	3 p. m.....				Wind.....	Estimated winds of 55 to 60 m. p. h. destroyed some small buildings.
Cross Roads Community, Ark.	11	3-4 p. m.....		4	2,000	Tornado.....	Principal damage at Cross Roads Community, 3¼ miles northwest of Bradford. 4 persons injured.
Poplar Bluff (near), Butler County, Mo.	11	3:45 p. m.....	30-440	6	100,000	do.....	Rural homes and farm buildings destroyed by storm and resulting fires and wreckage. Path of storm about 10 miles long. Trees uprooted and power lines downed. Livestock killed. Some stored stock and supplies destroyed by wind and rain. At least 12 persons required hospitalization. Damage confined to rural sections.
Pana-Dollville area, Ill.....	11	4 p. m.....	100	0	20,000	do.....	Several homes badly damaged in Pana. Storm also struck a number of farms near Dollville. 1 person injured.
Modesto, Macoupin County, Ill.	11	4:30 p. m.....		1		Electrical.....	1 death caused by lightning.
Milan (near), Gibson County, Tenn.	11-12	During night.....				Rain, wind and electrical.....	Damage to power lines, buildings, some timber, roads, and bridges. Heavy damage to ungathered crops and pastures in lowlands.
Chippewa Falls (near), Wis.	11	P. m.....			15,000	Thunderstorm, with wind.....	2 large barns blown down; 1 country school unroofed. 5 head of cattle killed in 1 of the barns, and 1 person injured.
Milwaukee, Wis.....	11					Southwesterly gales.....	Minor disruption to electric service because of broken and fallen wires.
Butte, Mont.....	15			1		Cold wave.....	An elderly man who became lost was frozen to death.
Nebraska.....	16	Noon-2 p. m.....			400	Wind.....	Rather strong barometric gradient developed over extreme southeastern Nebraska. Dusty with visibility reduced to 2 miles at airport station, where gusts up to 55 m. p. h. at 1:10 and 1:23 p. m. 2 plate glass windows shattered in Lincoln.
Wallace and vicinity, Shoshone County, Idaho.	17-23					Heavy snow.....	Utilities and communications suffered from broken towers, wires, etc. Numerous traffic accidents. Damage estimated at several thousand dollars.

1 Miles instead of yards.

SEVERE STORMS FOR DECEMBER 1949—Continued

Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks
Kansas, southeastern counties.	21	Midnight-afternoon.	-----	-----	-----	Ice and sleet-----	Sleet, turning to freezing rain or glaze, fell over much of eastern third of state, but of consequence in 13 southeastern counties. Tree limbs broken; power and communication lines damaged; and highways made icy and dangerous. Conditions in some localities remained severe for 2 or 3 days.
Illinois, extreme west-central portion.	21	All day-----	-----	-----	600,000	Ice-----	Heavy damage to communication and power lines by freezing rain, especially in Quincy area; several days required to fully restore telephone and power services. Hundreds of trees ruined. Most damage in Quincy and Adams Counties.
Iowa, extreme eastern and extreme southern portions.	21-22	Night of 21 and morning of 22.	-----	-----	-----	Ice and sleet-----	Freezing rain left glaze coating of $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch over nearly all objects. Glaze persisted until 25th. Hazardous driving conditions most serious result. Only minor interruptions of power and communications.
Wisconsin, southwestern portion.	21-22	Night-----	-----	-----	-----	Ice-----	Several minor accidents occurred because of hazardous driving conditions due to freezing rain.
Long Beach, Pacific County, Wash.	23	11 a. m.-----	17	0	1,000	Tornadoic-----	During a straight southwesterly wind, estimated 50 to 60 m. p. h., a destructive twisting wind of very brief duration and with a path of only about 100 yards long in a northeasterly direction developed over the ocean beach ridge at Long Beach, Wash. 1 dwelling completely unroofed, a garage demolished, and several adjoining houses damaged partially. A large tree twisted off about 10 feet above ground. Unstable air conditions and some thunderstorm activity, together with twisting wind effects observed, appear to confirm this wind as a tornado of brief duration, the first ever observed in the Long Beach area.
Great Falls, Mont.-----	25	-----	-----	1	-----	Wind-----	Gusts of 50 m. p. h. drifted snow. Man overworked himself shoveling his car out of snowbank.
Clallam County (north-central portion) and Straits of Juan de Fuca, Wash.	28	Noon to midnight.	-----	-----	-----	Winds-----	During a general storm, south to west winds reached destructive velocities in north-central Clallam County. In the Elwha River Valley, from Lake Crescent to beyond Elwha, south winds estimated at 60 m. p. h. toppled many large trees, disrupting electric and communication lines and highway traffic. Wind damage further complicated by high water in local streams and mud slides on Olympic and other highways. Damage to timber probably considerable.